

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
INSPECTION REPORT
March 18, 1994

TO: Kevin Fitzpatrick, File
INSPECTORS: Lisa Zinner
Bob Newman
DATE OF VISIT: 3/3/94
PERMIT NO.: none
PERMIT EXPIRES:
NEW INDUSTRY: no

TYPE OF INSPECTION:

Announced	_____	Unannounced	<u>X</u>
Permit Application	_____	Complaint	<u>X</u>
Permit Renewal	_____	Enforcement	_____
Permit Compliance	_____	Drop In	_____

FACILITY: Lone Star Northwest, Inc.
ADDRESS: 5900 W. Marginal Way, S.W., Seattle, WA 98106
COUNTY: King
TEL: (206) 764-3075

PERSON CONTACTED: Douglas Twiford, Terminal Manager

TYPE OF FACILITY: Receives, stores, and distributes cement

RECEIVING WATER: Duwamish River

TREATMENT SYSTEM: none

OPERATION: Satisfactory ____ Fair ____ Unsatisfactory X
Complies with permit conditions ____

INSPECTION NARRATIVE:

Bob Newman and I arrived at Lone Star Northwest, Inc. at 9:30 am on Thursday, March 3, 1994. We checked in at the office. Douglas Twiford, Terminal Manager, walked around the site with us. It was raining steadily during the inspection. We left at approximately 10:15 am.

FINDINGS:

1. The Lone Star Northwest, Inc. facility on West Marginal Way receives, stores, and distributes bulk cement. They receive cement by truck, rail, barge, and ship. They distribute cement by truck, rail and barge. The facility is located on the Duwamish River.
2. Storm water from the facility flows east in a ditch along the south edge of the pavement and discharges to the Duwamish. Truck exterior wash water is discharged to the ditch through a slot drain. The cement transfer area is not exposed to rain. The drainage off the paved area at the site was clear on the day of the inspection. The pH of the drainage was slightly acidic (≈ 5.5).

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3. The flow in the ditch was highly turbid during the inspection. We traced the source of turbidity to drainage coming into the head of the ditch off of the neighboring facility, a lumber yard. Doug Twiford told us that this property is also owned by Lone Star. To the east of the lumber yard, towards the river, Lone Star parks cement hauling trucks. The turbid storm water was created by truck traffic coming into the lumber yard onto an unpaved yard. Clay or silt was coming up through the gravel in the yard and causing turbid runoff. We discussed potential solutions for this problem. The best option would be to pave the yard to prevent the turbid runoff. An immediate, but temporary, fix would be to create stilling pools in the ditch with sand bags and/or straw bales to try to settle out the suspended solids. This solution may not work without coagulation/flocculation.
4. The discharge of process wastewater (truck wash water) is not currently permitted. Ashgrove Cement West, Inc. submitted a Form 2C for the facility in 1988, but the application was for storm water only. The application didn't discuss a truck wash facility. Forms 1, 2C and 2F were sent to Ed Owens of Lone Star Northwest, Inc. on July 2, 1993, but the applications have not been submitted.
5. The facility has the choice of connecting the truck wash water to METRO or obtaining an NPDES permit.
6. The SIC code category for this facility (5032 - Wholesale distribution of brick, stone, and related construction materials) doesn't require a storm water permit. If the facility chooses to discharge their truck wash water to METRO, then no Ecology permit would be required. If the facility chooses to discharge the truck wash water to the Duwamish, then storm water requirements could be incorporated in the NPDES permit, if necessary.
7. A follow-up letter was sent to Douglas Twiford on March 8, 1994.



Lisa Zinner
Water Quality Section

LJZ:lz
Attachments: Photos